

MORPETH
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 1937.

G. B. STENHOUSE,

M.B., Ch.B. (Vict.),

Medical Officer of Health.

T. T. WATSON,

R.S.I. Meat Inspector's Certificate. R.S.I. and S.I.J.B. Certificate,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

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Morpeth :

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE
MORPETH RURAL DISTRICT
For the Year 1937.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you the Annual Report on the sanitary conditions and health of your district for the year 1937. This year has seen greater activity and development than any other I remember since I first gave you a monthly report on behalf of Doctor Philip ten years ago. There has been a greater burden of work thrown on your officials in all departments, and this load seems likely to be increased still further as time goes on. One can not help but look forward to the possibility of improved accommodation in the future to allow of more complete organisation, better lighting conditions and a more attractive establishment. I am glad to express my gratitude for the co-operation I have received from your staff during the past year.

In the arrangement of this report I propose to follow that of 1936.

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The extent of your district is, in acres ...	79,193.
The Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population at mid-1937 is ...	15,040.
The rateable value is ...	£59,639.
One penny rate produces ...	£240.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to the rate books (approx.)	3,500.

You will notice that there is a further drop in the population, from 15,190 in 1936 to the present figure—namely 150 persons. The opening of the St. Andrew's Homes, for the mentally defective, at North Gate, will probably increase the population (to what extent I can not yet say), but there is no doubt that there has been a slight but increasing decline in the last two years. At the same time there is a decrease of £380 in the rateable value.

One has generally regarded the Great North Road as dividing the district into an industrial and populous Eastern division and an agricultural and sparsely populated Western area—and this division has up to now served its general purpose. But in view of the greatly increased significance of population distribution that has been evinced by the advent of the Air Raids Precautions organisation it seems to me that it is much more accurate to regard the district as divided by a straight line running from Morpeth to North Broomhill. For those of you who have no map handy I may state that this line passes through Butterwell, The Cockles, between East and West Stobswood, close to West Chevington and Woodside. If this line were continued it would pass just West of Amble. There is no marked concentration of inhabitants West of this line and there are no industrial undertakings, and should I have occasion to refer to the East or the West of the district, I would prefer you to understand this division rather than the old. The ratio of the population between East and West is still approximately four to one.

I have noticed no change in the industrial activity during the past twelve months, and Stobswood and Ellington still appear to be the chief centres of employment, with the districts immediately adjacent to them. The industries are practically confined to coal-mining and brick-making.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The following table sets out in abbreviated form the statistics for 1937.

				Total.	Male.	Female.	
LIVE BIRTHS :—	Legitimate			238	123	115	} Birth Rate per 1,000 Population.
	Illegitimate			14	5	9	
							Rate per 1,000 Total Births.
STILL BIRTHS	...			11	5	6	41·82
							Rate per 1,000 Population.
DEATHS	...	...		184	94	90	13·33
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis (No. 29)						...	None
Deaths from other Puerperal causes (No. 30)							None
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—							
All Infants, per 1,000 live births					...	...	95·23
Legitimate Infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births							92·43
Illegitimate Infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births							142·85
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)					...	...	28
Deaths from Measles (all ages)					...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)						...	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)...							1

Below I give the usual tables of birth and death rates covering the last 10 years.

Year.		Birth Rate.		Crude Death Rate.		Adjusted Death Rate.
1928	...	16·8	...	8·8		
1929	...	16·8	...	10·2		
1930	...	15·8	...	8·3		
1931	...	15·15	...	10·4	...	11·13
1932	...	15·6	...	11·04	...	11·81
1933	...	17·2	...	9·8	...	10·58
1934	...	14·68	...	10·6	...	11·34
1935	...	17·40	...	10·9	...	11·84
1936	...	17·18	...	11·92	...	12·99
1937	...	16·74	...	12·23	...	13·33

DEATHS FROM SPECIAL DISEASES.

The following comparative table shows the deaths from the most common diseases during the past five years, and indicates the rate 1,000 deaths.

DISEASE.	1933		1934		1935		1936		1937	
	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate
Phthisis Pulmonalis	10	52	8	39·6	8	45·5	11	60·8	7	38·1
All Tubercular ...	17	88	12	59·5	13	73·9	12	66·3	8	43·5
All Respiratory ...	25	130	20	99·0	25	142·0	32	176·8	25	135·8
Cardiac and Circulatory ...	—	—	46	227·7	42	238·6	49	270·7	41	242·1
Cancer ...	24	120	33	163·4	25	142·0	21	116·0	28	191·6
Infectious Diseases	5	26	14	69·3	5	29·4	8	44·2	9	48·9
Diarrhœa ...	3	15	3	14·9	2	11·4	3	16·6	1	5·4

From the tables I have given you will notice that the birth rate is lower than that of the previous two years, but it is 0·41 per 1,000 over the average of the last ten years, and 1·84 per 1,000 higher than that of England and Wales. The death rate is the highest this district has had since 1928, being 1·82 above the average for that period, and 0·93 higher than the England and Wales figures. Approximately 37% of the deaths have accrued in persons over 70 years of age. One notes with gratification the fall in the number of deaths from tuberculosis and diarrhœa in children under two years of age, but there is a sharp rise in the fatal cases of cancer and the rate is the highest for the last five years.

The deaths from infectious diseases include deaths from Influenza.

I think it is increasingly clear that the general improvement in sanitation, especially as regards domestic conditions and the attention paid to milk production and supply, is telling its tale in the improving figures for tuberculosis and infantile diarrhœa.

THE INFANTILE DEATH RATE.

This is still very high, approximately the same as for 1936. Of the 24 deaths, 17 are due to congenital debility and premature births, and, as during last year, the majority of the others are due to diseases of the respiratory tract.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The testing of pathological samples (e.g.:—throat swabs, sputum, etc.), is carried out by the Northumberland County Council Laboratory at Newburn. The bacteriological testing of water supplies, etc., is done at the Public Health Laboratory at Armstrong College, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

There is no ambulance under your control. The surrounding Miners' Welfare Centres have their own ambulances for their own patients and casualties.

Where cases of infectious diseases have had to be removed to hospital for isolation this has been done either by the hire of a large taxi from Messrs. Waters, of Morpeth, or, when the exigencies of the case have required it, by the hire of an ambulance from Newcastle.

The British Red Cross Ambulance in Morpeth is not available for cases of infectious diseases.

(c) NURSING.

You have no nurses under your charge, but you have an arrangement with the County Nursing Association for the supply of a nurse or nurses for special needs, should these arise.

(d) CLINICS.

There are no clinics or treatment centres under your jurisdiction.

(e) HOSPITALS.

The small-pox hospital at Chevington has remained unused since 1927. This hospital is in an unsatisfactory state and no cases of any sort could be admitted into it as it is at present. The water supply appears to be unsatisfactory and before this supply is again used I would recommend that it be tested. About half the total of 24 beds would have to be renewed as the mattresses are either too rusty to clean or too broken to repair. The condition of the building itself is fairly good, and could be put into a serviceable state within a day or two and at comparatively little expense, but before it could be used I

think a water supply would have to be brought from the Council's main, which is reasonably near, unless, of course, the test turned out to be more satisfactory than I anticipate.

The majority of infectious cases that require removal to hospital are accepted by the Newcastle Infectious Diseases Hospital at Walkergate and I would like to record my thanks and appreciation to the Staff for the willingness with which they accept cases from this area. As in previous years, only those cases of infectious disease have been removed to hospital when their presence at home would have been a source of danger to the population in general because of the impracticability of isolation, or where any special nursing was necessary and unavailable in the district.

I would like to record also the readiness of the Medical Officer of Health for Ashington to accept cases when occasion has arisen—in such instances he has removed the patients in the Ashington Ambulance.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

(a) WATER.

The major change in the area concerns the Pegswood supply. The old pit water has now been cut off and the whole supply is now obtained from the Tynemouth Water Company. In addition to Pegswood, this Company supplies you with water for the parishes of Lynemouth, Ellington, Cresswell, Ulgham, Widdrington and Hepscoth. There is also a supply to Shield Hill.

A minor change was effected at Ulgham Grange Crossings where the well-water was found to be polluted and unfit for drinking purposes. The London and North-Eastern Railway closed the well and introduced a supply from the Council's main.

The water supply to Ellington Colliery was also discontinued during the year and a new supply from the Council's mains was laid into the 51 houses in that area.

The supply to West Thirston is the same as before, but Alnwick Rural District Council has intimated that it has a supply to offer, and negotiations are proceeding along these lines.

EAST CHEVINGTON AND BROOMHILL: The position here is somewhat disappointing. The joint scheme with the Amble Urban District Council is in operation, but although boring operations continue, no water has yet been obtained, and these districts are still supplied by the Broomhill Coal Company.

The Stobswood Colliery supply to North, East and South Steads, Widdrington, was discontinued for domestic purposes, and these places are now supplied with Tynemouth water from the Council main. The Colliery supply to Middle Moor, Longhirst, has also been discontinued, and water is now taken from the Council supply.

The Longhorsley water is very easily subject to heavy pollution and appears to be chiefly surface water. It is hoped that the Tynemouth supply will be used for this village in the near future.

(b) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Approval has been obtained for the scheme to sewer part of the parish of Ulgham and the whole of the parish of Ellington, and preparations to put into practice are now going ahead. By 1938 this should be well under way, and it is desirable that it should be so, because the conditions of the houses at the end of the Cresswell Road are rapidly deteriorating, and sewage is beginning to run on to the highway: a state of affairs which it is urgently necessary to rectify. There are also proposals to sewer Hepscott and Longhorsley and it is hoped to develop these schemes forthwith.

(2) POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Attention has been drawn to the pollution of the River Coquet at West Thirston by sewage matter. This does exist, but is not very extensive and a plan is being prepared as a suggestion to deal with this.

3 (a) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Considerable progress has been made here during the past twelve months. The new water supply to Pegswood has enabled rapid strides to be taken to improve the sanitation. The great majority of the old closets have now been done away with, and although 51 out of the 517 of last year remain, the Colliery Company is converting these also to the water carriage system.

Of the 700 privy-middens at Broomhill, the 120 at Stobswood and the 90 at Widdrington, 96, 48 and 62 respectively are included in scheduled property.

It is gratifying to note the progress already made, but there still remains more to be done, and before much more can be accomplished it is essential that the East Chevington and Broomhill water scheme produces practical results, as there is insufficient water at present to allow of further improvement.

3 (b) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

There is no alteration in the arrangements for public cleansing from the preceeding year. The work has been carried

out satisfactorily throughout the year, and no serious complaints have come to hand. More areas are likely to be added to the present ones, which are scavenged by contract, during 1938.

3 (c) The Tabular Statement of the Sanitary Inspectors is appended to this report.

3 (d) SHOPS.

Additional sanitary accommodation has been provided in three shops during the year, and one shop was provided with additional ventilation.

3 (e) There has been no nuisance from smoke during the year, nor has any action been necessary.

3 (f) There are no Swimming Baths or Pools in the area. There is a fair amount of open-air swimming during the summer months in certain stretches of the River Wansbeck, but there has been no reason to take any action to control this. The bathers are, I think, youths from the Borough of Morpeth.

3 (g) ERADICATION OF BED-BUGS.

One house at Lynemouth belonging to the Coal Company was found to be infested with Bed-Bugs. This house was sprayed with "Zaldecide" with, apparantly, good results.

One other house in the district was fumigated before the tenants removed into a Council house. The work in both cases was carried out by your staff.

4. SCHOOLS.

A deputation from your Council met the Education Authority in the matter of the sanitation of Hartburn and Cambo Schools. Both of these matters are at present in abeyance, the former because the Education Authority considers that the whole village should be sewered (which, in my opinion, would be a matter of great expense, and it is doubtful whether this is justified); and the latter because of lack of water.

HOUSING.

The work in this direction has been heavy for the district, and the general summaries will be found appended to this report. The new standard being set in the district is a great improvement on the old type of working-class house, and there is no doubt that as time goes on, more and more houses built to the old plans, with little or no provision for sanitation, in its modern conception, will become obsolete.

One of the most gratifying advances made is in regard to Pegswood, where, as I mentioned earlier in this report, the

closet conversion scheme is practically completed. This has allowed of the removal of the privy-middens from the middle of the streets and the erection of the new closets beside the houses. One looks forward to a better era in the health of this village as a result of the changes.

The number of houses built by private enterprise and occupied during the year is 34, a slightly smaller number than last year. In addition, your Council has built 20, which are now occupied. The number of houses now owned by the Council is as follows: 86 at Pegswood, 90 at Widdrington, two at West Thirston, and nine houses leased from the Northumberland Aged Mine-Workers' Association at Longhirst. There is still a demand for houses at Widdrington, Lynemouth, Ellington and Longhorsley.

IMPROVEMENTS TO PROPERTY.

Many improvements have been carried out during the year after informal, and in some cases, formal notice to the owners. Notably: At Pegswood, Bothal Terrace and Longhirst Terrace (damp-proof courses inserted, new and larger windows and general repairs); at Longhirst Colliery, Straker Terrace (new surface drainage and general repairs); at Widdrington, Junction Inn (new convenience); at Ellington, Plough Inn (new convenience and structural repairs); at Middleton, Post Office (new drainage and structural repairs); at Longhorsley, several houses (new drainage, water closets and structural repairs); at Lynemouth, The Club (new conveniences).

General repairs and provision of new wash-houses have been effected at Houndalee and North Steads.

SLUM CLEARANCE.

The following areas have been confirmed by the Minister of Health for clearance:—

South Broomhill,	an area comprising 95 houses.			
West Chevington,	„	„	51	„
Stamp Steads, Widdrington	„	„	7	„
West Moor Row, Widdrington	„	„	4	„
Old Engine Houses, Pegswood	„	„	3	„
Long Row, Widdrington	„	„	23	„
Bus Row,	„	„	18	„
Short Row,	„	„	10	„
Mitford Village,	„	„	4	„
Highthorn, Ellington,	„	„	3	„
Sea-Field Cottages, Cresswell,	„	„	2	„
Stobswood Colliery,	„	„	48	„
Total			...	<u>268</u>

One house was withdrawn from the Broomhill area, and this house has been re-conditioned by the owners.

Two houses at Bothal Terrace, Pegswood, were scheduled as a clearance area but these houses were demolished by the owners before confirmation was received from the Minister.

Two other areas, namely, Meldon and Houndalee, each comprising two houses, were withdrawn and will be dealt with as individual houses. In both these cases the owners wished to retain the buildings for purposes other than for human habitation.

It will be noted that the list I have given above is composed of four large groups, namely: South Broomhill, West Chevington, Widdrington and Stobswood, and some smaller areas. With the exception of Mitford, these are all in the Eastern part of your district.

This programme, you will see, embraces a large and continuous tract of country, cutting right through your industrial area. There remains a few houses which I expect will be dealt with in 1938, and then you should have a large part of your Eastern district which should not have to be touched again for a very considerable number of years; the only industrial areas excluded by this programme are North Broomhill and the Pegswood districts.

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS') ACT.

One is very glad to be able to report a definite improvement in response to the advantages offered by this Act and one hopes that this response heralds still further activity in this direction. During the year application for assistance was made in relation to eleven houses.

The Housing (Financial Provisions) Act holds out still further hope of circumventing the snags in housing the rural working population.

MILK.

MILK AND DAIRIES (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1915.

„ „ (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1922.

„ „ ORDER, 1926.

Cowsheds.	No. of Cows.	Purveyors of Milk.
117	1,474 (approx.)	7

Samples of milk have been taken and submitted to the County Laboratory at Newburn, and these samples were found to be up to standard, and when tested for enteric organisms, showed negative results.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

The number of Licenses held in your district under this order is :—

Tuberculin Tested, Certified ...	...	2
Tuberculin Tested ...	...	3
Accredited ...	...	25

The standard of purity of production in the district is being maintained.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL'S (SLAUGHTERHOUSES) ORDER, 1924.

There are seven registered and three licensed premises in the district which are regularly visited and are usually kept in a satisfactory condition.

PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928.

„ (MIXTURE) ORDER, 1929.

„ (CARBIDE OF CALCIUM), 1929.

Under these enactments, one license has been granted during 1937.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table gives a summary of the infectious diseases that have been notified during 1937 :—

Disease.						Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	25	5	—
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	16	12	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	...	...	...	...	...	5	5	1
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	...	...	...	...	3	—	—
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	4	—	—
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	23	—	11

The response to artificial immunisation against Diphtheria has been most disappointing this year, and only a few children have been treated. The service is still being maintained and it is to be hoped that the public will avail itself more freely without waiting for practical and, possibly, disastrous proof.

Most of the cases of Enteric Fever were the tail-end of the outbreak at Pegswood in December 1936. The date of the last case notified was 10th October, 1937, and this had evidently

been contracted out of the district, namely, at Gateshead. No further cases of Spirochætal Jaundice came to my notice during 1937.

The most alarming and spectacular occurrence during the year was the sudden outbreak of food-poisoning which occurred at Cresswell Holiday Camp. About 350 boys were affected within 36 hours. Luckily, the cases proved to be slight and the fever and other symptoms of short duration. The worst case was sent to the City Infectious Diseases Hospital at Walkergate for investigation and the *B. Aettrycke* was isolated. The source of the outbreak was traced to a supply of pressed-beef, supplied by a contractor whose premises are situated out of the district.

In connection with CRESSWELL CAMP I would like to draw your attention to the following facts. Of the 16 cases of Diphtheria notified in this area, 10 cases came from outside the area, and all these from County Durham, though, of course, they were resident in the area at the time of diagnosis. Similarly, of the 25 cases of Scarlet Fever, two cases were from this camp. The notifications, therefore, of Diphtheria, give a wrong impression of the prevalence of the disease among the people of the Morpeth Rural District.

One of the cases of Puerperal Pyrexia was later stated to be a case of Acute Influenza.

I append a table to show the age incidence in the notifications of infectious diseases other than tuberculosis.

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED (other than Tuberculosis)
DURING THE YEAR 1937.

DISEASE.	AGE PERIODS.											
	Under 1 year	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 & over
Smallpox												
Scarlet Fever			1		2	12	7		2		1	
Diphtheria						2	12	1			1	
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)								1	3		1	
Puerperal Fever									3			
Puerperal Pyrexia												
Pneumonia	1		2	5		2		1	3	2	4	3
Bac. Dysentery												
Erysipelas									1		2	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table is arranged to show the age incidence of notified cases and also the age mortality.

AGE PERIODS.		NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0- ...					1				1
1- ...		1	1		3				
5- ...				2	1				
15- ...						2	1		
25- ...		2	1						
35- ...			2				3		
45- ...									
55- ...						1			
65 and upwards ...									
Totals ...		3	4	2	5	3	4	0	1

Notifications of tuberculosis appear to have been efficient during 1937.

Finally, Ladies and Gentlemen, you will find on the following pages the tables relating to Total Deaths, Birth Rates, Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death Rates and Case rates for certain infectious diseases, which are supplied by the Minister of Health, and also the records of Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

I am,

Yours obediently,

GEOFFREY B. STENHOUSE

TOTAL DEATHS, 1937.

CAUSES OF DEATH.						M.	F.
ALL CAUSES						94	90
1	Typhoid Fever, etc.	...	...	...	...		1
2	Measles ...	...	...	...	...
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...
4	Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...		1
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...
6	Influenza ...	...	...	...	...		5
7	Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	...		2
8	Cerebo-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...
9	Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	4	3
10	Other Tuberculosis...	...	...	...	...	1	
11	Syphillis ...	...	...	...	...		1
12	General Paralysis of the Insane, etc.	...	...	...	...		1
13	Cancer ...	...	...	...	...	10	18
14	Diabetes ...	...	...	...	...	2	
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	7	7
16	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	19	12
17	Aneurysm...	...	...	...	...
18	Other Circulatory Diseases ..	...	...	...	...	4	6
19	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	1	3
20	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	9	2
21	Other Respiratory Diseases..	...	...	...	...		3
22	Pentic Ulcer	...	...	...	...	1	2
23	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	1	
24	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	1	
25	Cirrhosis of Liver ...	...	...	...	...	2	
26	Other Liver Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	
27	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	2
28	Nephritis ...	...	...	...	...	4	1
29	Puerperal Sepsis ..	...	...	...	...
30	Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	...
31	Congenital Causes, etc.	...	...	...	...	9	8
32	Senility ...	...	...	...	...	1	5
33	Suicide ...	...	...	...	...
34	Other Violence	...	...	...	...	9	1
35	Other Defined Causes	...	...	...	...	6	6
36	Ill-defined Causes ...	...	...	...	...	1	
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)							
	Smallpox	...	...	...	...
	Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...
	Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...
Death of Infants under 1 year							
		Total	...	...	...	15	9
		Legitimate	...	...	...	14	8
		Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	1
LIVE BIRTHS							
		Total	...	...	...	128	124
		Legitimate	...	...	...	123	115
		Illegitimate	...	...	...	5	9
STILL BIRTHS							
		Total	...	...	...	5	6
		Legitimate	...	...	...	5	6
		Illegitimate	...	...	...
Resident Population						15,040	
Comparability Factor						1 09	

**Birth-rates, Death-rates Analysis of Mortality,
Maternal Death-rates,**
and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1937.
England and Wales, London, 125 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns.
(Provincial Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	England and Wales	125 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Popula- tions 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Adminis- trative County	MORPETH RURAL DISTRICT
RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION.					
BIRTHS :—					
Live	14.9	14.9	15.3	13.3	16.74
Still	0.60	0.67	0.64	0.54	0.73
DEATHS :—					
All Causes	12.4	12.5	11.9	12.3	13.33
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.07
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.06	0.07
Diphtheria	0.07	0.08	0.05	0.05	0.00
Influenza	0.45	0.39	0.42	0.38	0.33
Violence	0.54	0.45	0.42	0.51	0.66
NOTIFICATIONS :—					
Smallpox	0.00	—	0.00	—	—
Scarlet Fever	2.33	2.56	2.42	2.09	1.73
Diphtheria	1.49	1.81	1.38	1.93	1.06
Enteric Fever	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.05	0.33
Erysipelas	0.37	0.43	0.34	0.44	0.27
Pneumonia	1.36	1.58	1.20	1.18	1.46
RATES PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.					
Deaths under 1 year of age ...	58	62	55	60	95
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	5.9	7.9	3.2	12.0	4.0
MATERNAL MORTALITY :—					
Puerperal Sepsis	0.97	} Not available			0.00
Others	2.26				0.00
Total	3.23				0.00
RATES PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS (i.e. Live and Still).					
MATERNAL MORTALITY :—					
Puerperal Sepsis	0.94	} Not available			0.00
Others	2.17				0.00
Total	3.11				0.00
NOTIFICATIONS :—					
Puerperal Fever	13.93	17.59	11.52	4.15	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	13.93	17.59	11.52	14.34	11.41

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1937, for the Rural District of Morpeth, in the County of Northumberland,

on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS and WORKPLACES.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	30		
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	8		
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)	6		
Total	44		

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Act :—*</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	7	7		
Want of Ventilation	1	1		
Overcrowding				
Want of Drainage of Floors				
Other Nuisances				
Sanitary Accomodation { insufficient unsuitable or defective not separate for sexes	3	3		
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bake-houses (s. 101)				
Other Offences				
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.				
Total	11	11		

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7, 8, of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT: Year ending December 31st, 1937.

District: MORPETH RURAL. Population: 15,040. Inspectors: T. T. Watson. J. Coates.		No. of inspections during year.	No. of Defects or Contraventions of Bye-laws.	No. outstanding from previous year.	Total.	No. remedied after letter or interview.	No. of Informal Notices served.	Defects remedied thereafter.	No. of Statutory Notices served.	Defects remedied thereafter.	In progress or being dealt with.	Legal Proceedings.
Housing	Structural defects (Summary of Sheet II.)	3012	312	158	470	188						
	Defective Food-store ...	221	141	158	299	17					282	
	Dampness ...	254	254	158	412				130	130	282	
	Overcrowding ...	30	5	192	197				1		282	
	Nuisances ...	161	74		74	74					196	
Water Supply	Insufficient ...	19	3	1	4	2					2	
	Unsatisfactory ...	28	5	2	7	2			3		2	
Drainage	Insufficient ...	363	243		243	195					48	
	Defective ...	78	15		15	15						
Sanitary Conveniences	Insufficient ...	800	707	65	772		176		328		268	
	Defective ...											
Shops, Food-stores, &c. Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Slaughter Houses Tents, Vans, &c. ... Offensive Trades ... Workshops and Workplaces Keeping of Animals Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles Ashpits improperly used ... Offensive accumulations ... Smoke Nuisances... Petrol Stores ...	...	33	6		6	6						
	...	286	24		24	24						
	...	254	4		4	4						
	...	75	12		12	12						
	...	34	5		5	5						
	...	8										
	...	330	130		130	130						
	...	68	22		22	22						
	...	25	10		10	10						
	...											
	...	26										
Northumberland County Council. Medical Officer's Department.		5994	1898	542	2632	632	176		462	130	1362	
TOTAL		5994	1898	542	2632	632	176		462	130	1362	

OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES, SECTION 108.

NATURE OF WORK.	Instances.	Notices served.	Prosecutions.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Wearing Apparel :			
Making, etc.			
Cleaning and washing			
Household linen			
Lace, lace curtains and nets			
Curtains and furniture hangings			
Furniture and upholstery			
Electro-plate			
File making			
Brass and brass making			
Fur pulling			
Cables and chains			
Anchors and grapnels			
Cart gear			
Locks, latches and keys			
Umbrellas, etc.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Artificial flowers			
Nets, other than wire nets			
Tents... ..			
Sacks			
Racquet and tennis balls			
Paper, etc., of boxes, paper bags			
Brush making			
Pea picking			
Feather sorting			
Carding, etc., of buttons, etc.			
Stuffed toys... ..			
Basket making			
Chocolates and sweetmeats			
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, etc.			
Textile weaving			
Lampshades			
Total ...			

(Signature) GEOFFREY B. STENHOUSE,

Medical Officer of Health.

July 1st, 1938.

Sheet II.

District : MORPETH RURAL COUNCIL.

HOUSING (Consolidated) REGULATIONS, 1925.

TABULAR STATEMENT as required by Article 31, for YEAR 1937.

HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR :—

		With State assistance.	Unaided	Total.
(a)	By Local Authority ...	20	Nil.	20
(b)	By other Bodies or Persons ...	Nil.	34	34

1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	365
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	712
(2)	(a)	Number dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	240
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	386
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	124
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	152

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :

	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its officers ...	143
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3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS :**(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—**

(1)	No. of dwelling houses in respect of which "notices" were served requiring repairs ...	139
(2)	No. of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
	(a) By owners ...	131
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1)	No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	Nil
(2)	No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
	(a) By owners ...	
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of Housing Act 1936 :—

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	Nil

(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936 :—

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	Nil

4.—NO. OF HOUSES PERMANENTLY DISCONTINUED AS DWELLINGS AND NOT INCLUDED ABOVE ...

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Signed : T. T. WATSON.
Inspector.

Sheet III.

District : MORPETH RURAL COUNCIL.

Year 1937.

Inspectors : T. T. WATSON, J. COATES.

SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED.

				After Letter or Interview	After Informal Notice	After Statutory Notice	TOTAL.
Sanitary Conveniences.	Privies abolished	...	...	57		328	385
	Privies repaired	...	...	35		35	70
	Privy ashpits abolished	...	...	126			126
	Privy ashpits roofed or repaired	...		35			35
	Pail-closets abolished	...	...			8	8
	Water-closets provided	..	..	141		378	519
	Water-closets repaired	...	..	45			45
	Sanitary bins provided	...	...	183		336	519
	Sanitary bins renewed	...	..	42			42
Drainage.	New drains constructed	...	...	207		466	673
	Drains repaired or reconstructed	...		15			15
	Additional gullies provided	...	...	95		65	160
	Old gullies replaced	...	...	6			6
	Scullery sinks provided	...	...	80			80
	Scullery waste-pipes provided	...		25			25
	Scullery waste-pipes trapped	...					
	Yards repaired or reconstructed	...		57			57
Water Supply.	Sources closed or discontinued—Six				No. of houses affected—677		
	New service provided—Six				No. of houses affected—677		

RIVER POLLUTION :—

Cases detected	...	...	Four	Particulars : Septic tanks installed
Remedied	...	...	Two	at Longwitten and Middleton.
S.D. Works provided	...	Nil.	do.	Nil.

Sheet IV.

District : MORPETH RURAL COUNCIL.

Year 1937.

Inspectors : T. T. WATSON, J. COATES.

FOOD INSPECTION.

UNSOUND FOOD.	Surrendered.	Seized.	Legal Proceedings.
1. Beef (Home-killed) Stones	135		
2. Beef (Imported) „			
3. Mutton (Home-killed) „	80		
4. Mutton (Imported) „			
5. Pork „			
6. Game Lbs.			
7. Poultry „			
8. Fish „			
9. Fruit Lbs. or Cases			
10. Canned Goods Tins or Cases			
11. Bacon Lbs.			
12. Cheese „			
13. Butter „			
14. Lard „			
15. Other Foods :—			
40 Stones of Organs & Offals			

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

Section 6 (1) and (4).

Number of Cowkeepers (registered) in district	...	...	...	117
Approximate number of cows kept	...	...	...	1,474

